

# ZIPPER MERGE

## WHAT IS IT AND WHY IS IT EFFECTIVE?

A dynamic late merge (*zipper merge*) allows drivers to utilize all lanes of traffic until the merge area is reached. At this point, motorists should merge in an alternating fashion, like a zipper.

### What are the benefits of a zipper merge?

When a vehicle slows down to merge early in heavy traffic situations, it puts all drivers in danger, slowing traffic down too quickly, leading to unexpected crashes or angry motorists. These dangers are decreased using the zipper merge. Traffic backups can be reduced as much as 40 percent.

### How does it all work?

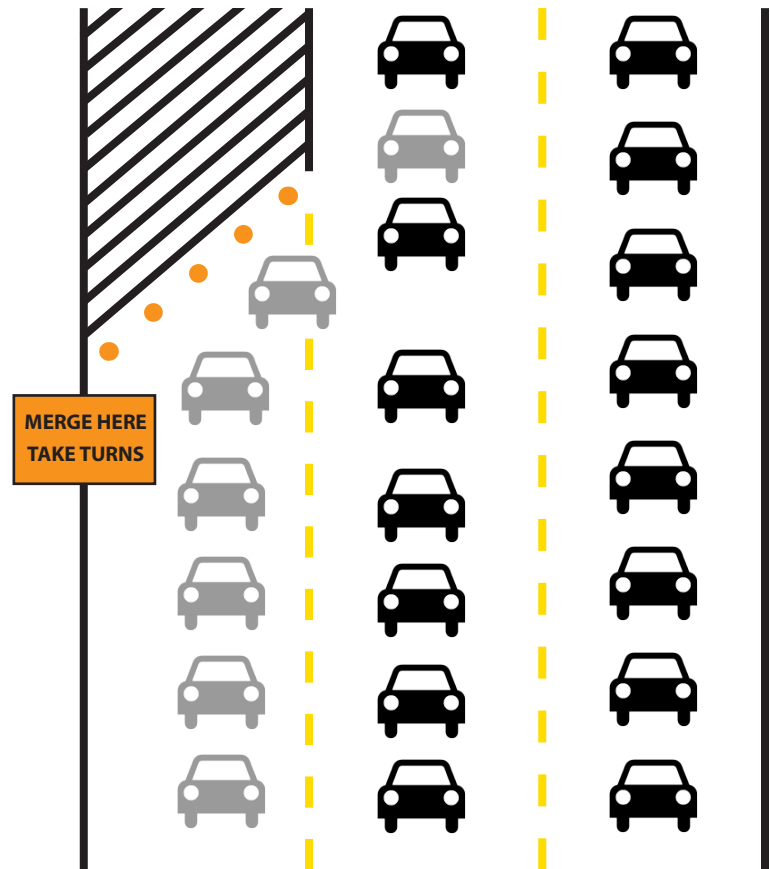
When you see a *Lane Closed Ahead* sign, continue to drive in your lane until you are prompted to merge. When you reach this point, take alternating turns with other drivers to merge into the single lane of traffic.

### Can we make it happen?

The only way this can be effective is if we are all aware of the zipper merge and follow its rules. When driving in this situation, slow down, alternate while merging, and play some relaxing music to get you through the traffic. The zipper merge allows for everyone to move at the same rate, minimizing delays for all.

*WisDOT will be implementing the zipper merge soon in the Zoo Interchange project.*

### ZIPPER MERGE



### ALTERNATE WHILE MERGING

#### Contacts

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